

Rep. Peter Welch made the following statement on the House floor Thursday during debate on a Republican proposal to fund the government for one week. The measure cuts \$12 billion in domestic spending, insulates the Pentagon from any further budget cuts and bars the District of Columbia from using funds to pay for abortions. With Welch objecting, the measure passed by a vote of 247 to 181. The Senate is not expected to take up the legislation and the President has promised a veto. Without further action, the federal government will shut down Friday evening. To watch video of Welch's remarks, [CLICK HERE](#) .

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Dicks. There is something we have to acknowledge, whatever side of the issue we are on. We are playing with fire. A government shutdown will have two consequences. The obvious being that folks who depend on governmental services will be enormously inconvenienced. Contractors owed money from the federal government won't be paid. Our citizens are going to be adversely hurt and folks who work honestly and hard every day for the federal government are going to be out of a job. That's significant.

"But what's really significant in the long-term is that this is sending a signal to the world, not just America, that the American political process is fundamentally broken. If we're unable to reach an agreement on a one-week continuing resolution to keep government going, what are the prospects for us when we face the challenge of a budget next year? What are the prospects for us when we face the challenge that looms ahead of us in May of raising the debt ceiling so that America can honor the obligations that it has to pay its bills? When the world begins to lose confidence that America's political process can function, it is going to have a very dramatic and negative impact on the economy. Interest rates are going to go up, the cost of borrowing will go up because anxiety about whether America meets its obligations will increase.

"We are playing with fire here. The biggest problem I have with the proposals that have been made by the other side, is that they are designed to fail. It's not that there isn't a legitimate concern about spending and getting our fiscal house in order. You're right about that. We share that. But if we're going to get from here to there, you cannot attack 100% of the problem by looking at 12% of the budget. I yield back."